

SERIES I.

NO. XI.

TOM STEADY,
A PRETTY HISTORY
FOR GOOD CHILDREN.



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This is the cottage where Tom Steady lived. I am going to tell you his history. In the first place, I have to say that he was kind to his sisters. When little boys are kind to their sisters, I have always found that the little girls tried to make their brothers happy. "He that loveth God, loveth his brother also."





TOM was not only kind to his sisters, but he was kind to the poor and the miserable. Here he is supplying the wants of a poor woman with a little babe, whose husband had just died of intemperance, and left her without a home; and he will find, in due time, that “he that giveth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord.”



Tom Steady had been taught that whatever he did, he should try to do it well. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." When he was at school, he was to learn his lesson well—when he was employed about any thing else, he was to take pains—and when at play, he was not to be careless. See how steadily he is whipping his top.



You have been told that Tom was an industrious lad, and here you see he is engaged in catching fish for his dinner. This is commendable ; but to torture the poor animals merely for sport, is cruel, and I hope no little boy who reads this book, will ever be so naughty. Tom not only assists his mother in this way, but he also helps to take care of the cattle, and feeds the poultry. It is a sad thing for children to be idle.



There is Tom and his sister walking
to church together. I have seen chil-
dren push each other about as they
walked to church or chapel; but it was
a very sad sight. Remember,

Christ reigns on high, in heaven above;
And from his heavenly throne
He sees what children dwell in love,
And marks them for his own.



Here is Tom at school. He has been reading, and the master is explaining to him what he has read; that is the way to make children wise. Little boys and girls should not be satisfied with merely reading, or repeating, their lessons: they should try to understand them, and always ask their parents or teachers to tell them the meaning of what they read. Tom did so, and by this means he knew more than any boy of his age in the school; and when he became a man, was beloved and respected.



Tom was very fond of playing at proper times. but he always learned his lesson first. He is going to play at cricket, but you see he has stopped to repeat his lesson to his sister, that it may be ready for to-morrow morning. That is the way to be first in the class.



Do not you think Tom looks very happy? You may know him in this picture by his having his hat on, as all good boys should when they play out of doors. He can play with a light heart, because he has learned his lesson for to-morrow, and has done all he could do to help his parents to-day, and they have given him liberty to play a while with his school-fellows. He will not everstay his time, but will return at the hour his mother bade him. He remembers where it is said, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."



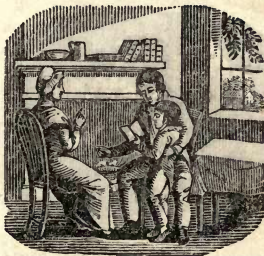
One day Tom's father sent him on an errand to 'Squire Steadfast's. He did his errand so well, and behaved with such propriety, that the 'Squire thought he might trust him to go to a neighboring town, on business for himself. So when Tom had obtained his father's consent to go, the 'Squire lent him his horse to ride on, because he was in a hurry, and Tom had several miles to go; besides, he knew Tom would not abuse the poor old beast, as some boys would. Tom did the business just as the 'Squire wished, and came back in season, which pleased the 'Squire very much.



One day Tom and his little brother were passing by where the 'Squire had fixed a telescope, and was looking at something a great way off. He saw Tom look very wishfully at the glass, and he called him, and told him to look through it, and asked him several questions, which Tom answered very properly.



The 'Squire was so pleased with all he heard and saw of Tom, that he asked him what trade he wished to learn. Tom said he should like to be a watchmaker, if his father would let him. So the 'Squire called one day and spoke to Tom's father, and told him he knew a respectable man in that trade, and would help to pay the apprentice fee.



Tom's father and mother were very much obliged to their landlord, and Tom was sent to the watchmaker. Before he went, his mother gave him some good advice how to conduct himself. She also told him to remember to pray to God every day for grace, and to entreat that he would direct him aright by the teaching of his Holy Spirit.



Tom understood what his mother meant. She had taught him from a child to read the Bible, like Timothy. He used to pray that the Holy Spirit might teach him to understand it. Also, that he might be enabled to look to Christ for the pardon of his sins and to love him, and keep his words.



Tom Steady never forgot to pray to God morning and evening. God was pleased to keep him from following the evil practices which he saw others delight in. He was sober and industrious, and in the course of a few years got forward in the world. Remember that it was by divine grace his heart was changed; and he was enabled to love God, and to delight in his ways

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